

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending. Claims 1-40 have been made the subject of a requirement for restriction to a single group of claims directed to one invention. The inventions are as follows:

Invention 1: Claim(s) 1-14, drawn to a transgenic organism that produces vanillin when provided with caffeic acid or an esterified derivative thereof;

Invention 2: Claim(s) 15-33, drawn to a method for producing vanillin;

Invention 3: Claim(s) 34-36, drawn to an O-methyltransferase from *Vanilla planifolia*; and

Invention 4: Claim(s) 37-40, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes an O-methyltransferase from *Vanilla planifolia*.

Applicants elect to pursue those claims directed to Invention 1 above, in particular claims 1-14, drawn to a transgenic organism that produces vanillin when provided with caffeic acid or an esterified derivative thereof.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this is fully responsive to the Office Action of April 10, 2008 and that the claims are in condition for examination on the merits. The examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative telephonically to resolve any questions relating to this response, or the substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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